



VIGILEER



Vol. 47, No. 11

Friday, March 23, 2001

Aviano Air Base, Italy

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps.

Time for gas coupon turn-in

By Senior Airman Lee Smith
Editor

The base exchange will sell new gas coupons which will be valid for the next 12 months beginning Monday.

The current year's coupons expire March 30.

According to Susana Sobrina, base exchange manager, these new coupons will be applied against the April ration, but they are not valid for use until April 1.

"Customers need to use the current coupons through March 31," she said.

"It is recommended to fill up the gas tank up to the very last day to save time of having to refund coupons and keep cars running for a while longer."

According to Sobrina, beginning April 1, the BX will offer refunds for expired coupons and, as in past years, old coupons can be refunded for cash only, no coupon exchanges are allowed.

To minimize inconvenience and avoid long lines, Sobrina suggests the following:

* Avoid peak hours at the BX (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.)

* Purchase new coupons early

* Refund current coupons after April 3.

"Although lines will occur, the cashier's cage at the BX will be fully staffed to maintain a constant flow of business," she said.

For more information, call Ext. 7331.



Senior Airman Michele Michaud

Show time

(From left to right) 2nd Lt. Ronnie Boyd, 31st Transportation Squadron, Capt. Scott Suckow, Staff Sgt. Timothy Batten, and Capt. William Satterfield, all 31st Medical Group look over a base grid map at one of the disaster control group assembly points Wednesday. Members from the Department of Defense, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and others have come to Aviano to conduct a surety inspection. Aviano members will find out about the inspection results during an outbrief Tuesday.

First enlisted call for command chief master sgt.

Fust, base leadership pleased with mission, wing achievement; key wing issues addressed

By Senior Airman
Lee Smith
Editor

For the first time since he took over as the command chief master sergeant in January, Chief Master Sgt. George Fust, 31st Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant, met with enlisted members March 15 at the base theater.

Fust addressed everything from uniform wear to enlisted leadership with Aviano's enlisted members during the two packed 90-minute sessions.

The following are some of the key excerpts from the sessions:

Talking to troops: "I would like to see each of the supervisors on base to make their people a priority," he said. "Each of you should

be talking to your folks about meaningful topics. Because we are a busy base, it can be easy to say 'there's no time to talk to my troops.' Do you know what your troop does off-duty? Are you talking to them about being a good citizen?"

Avenues for feedback. "The base advisory council and the unit advisory council are both here for you," he said. "The Air Force wants to know what topics you are concerned about and wants to hear what you have to say as well as listen to ideas you may have to help solve those problems."

Mission. Aviano is getting the mission accomplished," he said. "We are supporting Air Expeditionary Force Four as well as Opera

Latest DUIs

A noncommissioned officer was stopped by Italian police March 11 in Pordenone. The driver was determined to be under the influence of alcohol.

Also, an Aviano airman was involved in a major automobile accident March 18 in Fontanafredda. The driver was determined to be under the influence.

The incidents bring the total number of DUIs at Aviano to eight.

Noisy dormitory occupants

Q: I would like to know why the charge of quarters, or 31st Security Forces Squadron, can't control the noise made by the dormitory occupants in Bldg. 219.

It always seems to be the same group of individuals on the second floor next to the Area 2 entrance and the main street running between Area 1 and 2.

If they aren't playing their music loudly, they are yelling and screaming at each other.

This isn't a one time occurrence; it is every weekend between 2-4 a.m. I have called the Carabinieri, who stated they couldn't respond to a problem in Area 2. The 31st SFS stated that was the job of the dormitory CQ.

I couldn't find a number for Bldg. 219's CQ, just for 254 and 258. Can the Carabinieri hand out tickets for quiet hour violations made by dorm residents? Maybe they would be quieter if they had to pay out of their pockets like those

COMMANDER'S CONNECTION



Brig. Gen. Dan Darnell

The Commander's Connection is your direct link to let me know your comments, suggestions or unresolved complaints. I will personally see that each question is answered and select those of general interest to appear in the "Vigileer."

All items may be edited or paraphrased for brevity and clarity. Commander's Connection comments can be submitted by :

- E-mailing cc.connect@aviano.af.mil
- faxing to Ext. 7083
- sending through distribution to 31FW/PA
- mailing to 31FW/PA, Unit 6140 Box 100, APO AE 09604-0100;
- delivering to public affairs, Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

You may remain anonymous upon request. However, to receive a reply, include your name, unit and phone number.

The Commander's Connection is not intended to replace the chain of command. Before contacting the Commander's Connection, talk with managers, supervisors or first sergeants.

31st Fighter Wing Commander

living on the economy who violate the quiet hours.

A: Noise at the dorms is an issue that I take very seriously, as it affects the quality of life for all of our dormitory residents and hurts our relations with our Italian neighbors.

Dormitory residents must show courtesy and regard for their neighbors at all times by maintaining proper noise control at their buildings.

We are now using noncommissioned officers as CQs at the dormitories to provide better oversight and leadership.

The CQ is responsible for handling noise problems. There is one CQ for all three dorms. The extension is 5939.

The CQ performs mandatory walk-arounds of all three dorms every hour, but if you are experiencing a noise problem with your neighbors and cannot resolve it

yourself, contact the CQ. If the CQ cannot resolve the problem, the person can call security forces.

The Carabinieri does not respond to disturbances at the dorms but the security forces will assist the CQ if called.

If you are dissatisfied with the CQ's responsiveness, you can contact the unaccompanied housing manager, Master Sgt. Carols San Miguel at Ext. 5936 and explain what occurred.

He will take appropriate action with the CQ, and will contact the resident's first sergeant to take disciplinary action.

I expect all dormitory residents to abide by standards of behavior that respect their neighbor's need for quiet and rest. Failure to do so will not be tolerated.

KUDOS

Air Force PA awards

Congratulations to the 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs office, which was named the best Large Unit Public Affairs Office in the Air Force.

Aviano's PA office was also awarded the best Public Affairs Director's Award for Special Achievement for Planned Single Event Program or Product.

Other PA winners from the 31st Fighter Wing include:
 Air Force Public Affairs Special Achievement for Commander Support: Brig. Gen. Dan Darnell
 Outstanding Public Affairs Noncommissioned Officer: Tech. Sgt. Bill Lincicome
 Outstanding Public Affairs Company Grade Officer: Capt. John Haynes, formerly a 31st Fighter Wing deputy public affairs chief.



Aviano Air Base Editorial Staff
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Published by Risma, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 31st Fighter Wing.

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs office of the 31st FW. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

March is Women's history month

By Capt. Calvin Daniels
31st Fighter Wing Military
Equal Opportunity chief

March is Women's History Month and the theme is "Celebrating Women of Courage and Vision."

This is a very apt title for, in the history of our nation and in our military, women have made contributions often against seemingly insurmountable odds that have served to make our nation a land of freedom, security, and opportunity.

As a society, we still think of women taking care of the home front while the men trudged off to war. However, from the Revolutionary War until now, women have served — and some died — on the battlefield for the freedom of all Americans. In 1776, Margaret Corbin fought alongside her husband before he was fatally wounded during the artillery attack on Ft. Washington.

During the War of 1812, the first woman to serve in the Marine Corps, Lucy Brewer, disguised as George Baker, fought valiantly on the USS Constitution. Though the Marines were reluctant at the time to acknowledge her presence she was not reluctant to serve with distinction.

In addition, Army Gen. Zachary Taylor commissioned Sarah Borginis as a colonel in the U.S. Army during the Mexican War.

Capt. Calvin Daniels
31st Fighter Wing
Military Equal
Opportunity chief

"...from the Revolutionary War until now, women have served — and some died — on the battlefield for the freedom of all Americans."

These types of achievements have been repeated in every conflict that we've been involved with up to the present. Women now serve and lead as a rule, not by exception. There isn't space enough to even begin to state the contributions that women have made to our country whether in the military or as civilians. Our last Secretary of State, Madeline Albright led with patriotism, professionalism, and distinction.

Sandra Day O'Connor presides as the first woman to serve as a justice in our nation's highest court. Over 40 years ago, Rosa Parks was a key figure in the civil

rights movement and today our nation's policy is still shaped by today Condoleezza Rice, who provides counsel to our President as our nation's National Security Advisor.

Jackee-Joyner Kersee is considered one of the greatest athlete's male or female of all time. Dr. Shirley Jackson, nuclear physicist chaired the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission under former President Bill Clinton. Amelia Earhart, maybe more than anyone male or female, living or dead, epitomizes the theme "Celebrating Courage and Vision." Women today carry on her spirit in our most potent and capable aircraft in the quest for air superiority and air supremacy. They carry on this courage as astronauts in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration program.

Fortunately, we don't have to rely solely on history books, grainy film clips, or national headlines to see the contributions of women. They continue to contribute every day. Here at our base, women lead by example as First Sergeants, squadron commanders, and group commanders.

They mentor us as supervisors, teachers and coaches, as well as mothers. They give us counsel as peers and friends.

Whether on the world stage or in our communities, women continue to make history before our eyes every day.

'Plain,' blue book is central to what we do in military

By Maj. Dave Marshall

305th Air Mobility Wing Inspector General
McGUIRE Air Force Base, N.J. — I hold in my hand a pamphlet. Just looking at it wouldn't cause anyone to open it. After all, it's only about four inches wide by five inches tall, light blue in color and doesn't have a fancy cover.

In fact, it's downright plain. The Air Force Seal and six words are all that greet the reader's eyes. Any clues as to what it is? I'll give you a hint: You were all given one at some point in your Air Force career.

It's the Air Force core values pamphlet.

I decided to explore the pamphlet because the concepts of integrity, service, and excellence are so vital to the way we do business — especially to training.

"Training" you say? You bet! Over 200 years ago, George Washington said, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual ways of preserving peace." What better way to prepare for war than to train hard? How often have you heard athletic coaches tell their teams "you play the way you practice."

Peacetime training is filled with attitudes of integrity, service and excellence, and is directly responsible for the air mobility successes in operations such as Joint Endeavor, Allied Force and Atlas Response.

What is your purpose for training? Is it that you want to be as ready as possible or that the IG said there is a mobility exercise coming? The only correct response to this is to be as ready as possible. Individuals, supervisors and commanders play vital roles in readiness.

Supervisors owe it to their troops to be the catalyst for this type of preparation. Mentoring plays a large part in fostering the right attitude. For instance, base exercises are not "us against them" events. They provide the opportunity to determine what works well, build on those successes, overcome any challenges and correct deficiencies noted. Supervisors are in a position to encourage action on both ends.

Maintain a positive attitude and ensure you project it in all you do. Commanders owe it to their units to instill the "anytime, anywhere" philosophy of the Expeditionary Air Force. What kind of strategic planning goes into that thought process? It's more than making sure the Status of Resources and Training System shows an organization is ready to go. To me, it's in day-to-day actions. A commander's handbook says, "A soldier may not always believe what you say, but he will never doubt what you do."

We're responsible as individuals, as organizations, and as a wing to be a team, full of integrity, selflessness, and excellence.

Aviano Performer



courtesy photo

Senior Airman Marissa Richard
Security Forces
Information Manager
731st Munitions Support Squadron

Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.
What do you like most about your Aviano assignment? The travel opportunities in Europe.
What do you like most about your job? Working with a diverse group of people and the opportunity to work in other squadrons.
Greatest accomplishment: Achieving senior airman below the zone and making staff sergeant the first time testing.
Time on station: Five months.
Time in service: Three years, nine months.

"Since her arrival she has shown unrivaled professionalism and keen technical prowess. Airman Richard implemented a proactive approach to solving procedural shortfalls, improving "on time" performance reports and decoration submissions by 50 percent. SrA Richard is self motivated, goal oriented and talented. She represents the best expectations of our first-term force."

-- Tech. Sgt. Patrick Ansel
NCOIC, Security Forces
Operations
731st Munitions Support Squadron

IN BRIEF

Promotion Ceremony

The monthly enlisted promotion ceremony for the wing is 9 a.m. Wednesday in Hangar One. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Everette Whitfield at Ext. 7554.

Civilian personnel office -- is closed Monday through Wednesday during its relocation to Via Antonio Gramscio 14, Aviano. It is near the duomo in the Aviano square.

Aviano Airman Leadership School -- has a graduation ceremony honoring class 01-C with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Thursday. The cost is \$15. Mess dress or semi-formal is the uniform of the evening. For more information, call at Ext. 5315.

The American Red Cross -- is hosting an annual volunteer recognition luncheon March 30. The guest speaker will be Leonard St. Jean, former National Football League lineman. Volunteers and invited guests are welcome to attend. For more information, call Ext. 5576.

Blessing of the bikes -- is 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Santuario Madonna del Monte. All motorcyclists are welcome to this ninth annual event. After the ceremony, everyone is welcomed to the Western House Restaurant, in Aviano, for pizza. Donations are accepted.

Girl scout drive -- junior troop 83 is holding a slipper/scarf drive for the Kozina refugee camp March 30 through April 6. Look for the display in the base exchange area. Purchase one of the items needed, then bring your donation to the BX 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6. For more information, call

Gretchen Sandridge at 0434-580666.

The Aviano Chief's Group -- is seeking volunteers for the upcoming Primavera Bazaar May 18-20. Volunteers can work the entire day or as little as two hours and are needed in the following areas: vendor sales recorder, hospitality, finance and several language translators. To volunteer, call Senior Master Sgt. George Goff at Ext. 7341.

Aviano 2000 Program Management Office -- developed a new web site to provide information on the current status as well as photos of each project. Brief technical data on each of the Aviano 2000 NATO projects is also provided.

The Aviano 2000 construction web site is available on base through Aviano intranet at avo-intranet.aviano.af.mil. After accessing the main web site, at the top left side of the page, click the second line "Aviano 2000 Construction." Comments and suggestions on how to improve the web site are encouraged and may be sent to the AV2K program office by clicking on the "Contact Us" bar.

Link to local recycling procedures -- is now available on the Aviano Intranet under the "Information" tab. The page can also be accessed directly at ibt/units/31sptg/civilengineering/cev/recycling/recycling.htm. For more information, call Ext. 4322.

Cop's Corner

For the week of March 12 through Sunday
Accidents: Aviano (4), Aviano Air Base (5), Pordenone (1), Roveredo (1), Portogruaro (1), Budoia (1), San Vito (1), Fontanafredda (1)
Minor accidents: 11
Major: 4
Injuries from the accidents: (3)
Damage to personal property: Aviano (2)
Larceny of personal property: On-base (3),
Vehicle break-ins: Conegliano (1)
House break-ins: 0
Traffic complaints: 1
DUIs: 2
Shoplifting: 1

Accident spotlight

A motorcyclist was traveling east on Via San Martino and driving too fast for the wet road conditions. The motorcyclist hydroplaned off the road and landed in a ditch on the right side of the road. Spring rains have left standing water on the roads and made them exceptionally slick and dangerous. Drivers should slow down, especially after spring rains and at night when water is difficult to see on roads.



Totals for 2001
Vehicle breaking and entering: 32
Home breaking and entering: 11
Shoplifting: 5
DUIs: 7

Accident info
Total accidents this year: 148
Accidents this time last year: 174

Source, 31st Security Forces Squadron Reports and Analysis.
Accident of the week provided by 31st Fighter Wing Safety.



Courtesy photo

Final honors Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) David Slater

Aviano Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor David Slater passed away from a short illness March 8.

Slater was born on Dec. 3, 1936 in Binghamton N.Y. He entered the U. S. Air Force in July 1955 for basic training at Sampson Air Force Base, N.Y.

After basic training, Slater's first assignment was at Chateauroux, France as an air policeman, where he met and married his wife, Yvette, in 1958.

He next served at Stony Brook Air Station as a security team member.

Slater then served as the enlisted assistant to the director of maintenance at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio.

He then returned to France for five years as a security policeman.

In 1967, he was assigned to Lockbourn AFB, Ohio as a security police senior non-commissioned officer.

During the Vietnam War, he served in Saigon, from 1969 to 1970 as a North Vietnamese prisoner interrogator working for Air Force intelligence.

After Vietnam, he served at Grand Forks AFB, N.D., and later at Zweibrucken AB,

Germany, as a security police NCO.

Slater was then assigned to Bruggen, Germany as a member of the special weapons security forces.

Then in 1975, he returned to the states to Ellsworth AFB, S.D., still assigned to security police.

While at Ellsworth in 1980, he was selected as the bomb wing's senior enlisted advisor. He retired in 1981 from the Air Force as a chief master sergeant after twenty-six years of service.

Slater earned his master's degree in social services in 1986 from South Dakota State University and began teaching in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Western Hill High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1988, he joined the Department of Defense Dependent Schools at Ramstein AB, Germany and taught JROTC there until 1995.

Slater then joined the Aviano staff in 1995, when he established the JROTC program here. Slater is survived by his wife Yvette, of forty-two years, and son Richard Luke Slater of Prescott, Ariz.

Enlisted call, from Page 1

tion Joint Guardian; we are supporting our geographically separated units with our members going on temporary duty assignments there."

Supporting leadership. "Our officers who have been appointed over us have proven us to be trustworthy and they in turn have given enlisted members the privilege of leadership because we have earned it," he said. "We must respect that and we should not be talking about a decision our supervisors made when we are in the base exchange or the dining facility. If there is a question about a decision made, it should be addressed with the person who made the decision, not aired out in public."

Wing achievement. "We did well with the functional inspection last year and our units and people are being recognized for the outstanding work they do by winning command and Air Force-level awards," Fust said. "Our enlisted folks are definitely helping Aviano make it happen."

DUI's. "The majority of those who are caught driving under the influence of alcohol are enlisted and more than half of those are airmen," he said. "The roads here are tough enough to drive on. We have programs such as Airman Against Drunk Driving and the Designated Driver program. Use them. You should always drive as if your life depended on it, because it does."

Aviano 2000. "Most people would agree that the base looks better today than it did yesterday and it will be better tomorrow," he said. "New dormitories, schools and a hospital are all under construction. We are basically building a new base from what was here a few years ago. For those who will leave before the new facilities will be put up, don't let that discourage your stay here."

Government card. "Aviano enlisted members are having problems paying their government travel card bills," he said. "It is reported that about 82 percent of the delinquencies on base are from the ranks of E-1 through E-5. As a result, Brig. Gen. Dan Darnell (31st Fighter Wing commander) recently deactivated the card for all E-1s

through E-5s here. We encourage you to use split disbursement when paying your GTC."

Communicating your opinion. "There was an e-mail which originated from the states in which an enlisted member stated he wouldn't re-enlist because his supervisor didn't praise him for the job he was doing," Fust said. "This e-mail was forwarded to different Air Force members at different bases and the e-mail eventually made it to Aviano. To send this type of e-mail out to a bunch of Air Force members is incorrect in the first place and NCOs forwarding this e-mail to other members is also incorrect. E-mail is a powerful tool; if you don't understand the ramifications of what you are typing, don't send out your opinion."

Pride in our uniforms. "It is a privilege to wear this uniform and it is a privilege to serve as an enlisted member and how we are perceived starts with how we wear our uniform," he said. "We must police ourselves when we wear the uniform incorrectly and correct others on the spot."

Career enlisted advisor. We have a career enlisted advisor for everyone on base and Master Sgt. John Thomas' sole job is to educate Aviano on career opportunities," he said. "I can't expect him to talk to all enlisted members, but I do expect him to send information to all of Aviano's senior NCOs to give to their troops."

Testing. There is a set time for those testing to be at the testing room," he said. "I urge everyone to get there on time. If you are one minute late, that minute will ultimately cost you one year. Even the base noncommissioned officer of the year can't test for promotion if he or she shows up after the door is closed."

Before letting the groups go, Fust said he, along with base leadership, was satisfied with the way things were going at Aviano.

"Base leadership is pleased with your performance. We deploy well, we are passing our unit inspections and we're getting the mission accomplished. What I am challenging everyone to do is to improve on that," he said.



Courtesy photo

Looking back

Members of the 31st Air Expeditionary Wing load a bomb onto an Aviano F-16 during Operation Allied Force in 1999. This month marks the two-year anniversary of NATO launching the air campaign against Serbia and the former Solobodan Milosevic regime. At the high point of Allied Force, as many as 212 aircraft, including F-16s, F-117s, F-15Es, EA-6Bs, EC-130s, EF-18s, KC-135s and KC-130s, E-3Ds and A-10s, covered the airfield here. The first wave of fighters and support aircraft launched from Aviano Air Base March 24, 1999. Aviano members participated in the 79-day long campaign with 14 other NATO countries.

More vehicle processing centers available

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AFPN) — The opening of three more vehicle processing centers enhances the quality of servicemember moves managed by the Military Traffic Management Command.

In recent months, centers have opened in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, and in Sigonella, Italy.

The centers expand the scope of the global privately owned vehicle contract by benefiting more servicemembers.

Benefits of the contract include such customer enhancements as conveniently located centers, direct damage settlements up to \$1,000 and in-transit vehicle tracking through the special Web site at <http://www.wherismypov.com>.

The original contract was awarded in September 1998 to American Auto Logistics, Inc., of Monroe, N.Y.

Since then, the contract's original 32 centers have been expanded to 39, adding thousands of annual vehicle movements to the contract.

Prior to the contract, each of MTMC's privately owned vehicle shipments was handled by as many as four, five or six individual contractors. The global privately owned vehicle contract placed the movement of approximately 75,000 vehicles a year in the hands of a single contractor.

The new Alaska centers opened Feb. 1 and greatly expand quality-of-life initiatives for all military servicemembers shipping vehicles to or from Alaska. The centers replace two facilities operated under precontract standards by other subcontractors.

Mary Jane Pasha Maxstadt
AP Logistics
general manager

"Rather than go back-and-forth for paperwork, all the necessary processing is done in one place."

"The centers will improve customer service," said Greg Wellstead, a spokesman for American Auto Logistics. "They will help us provide customer value."

The Alaska centers are expected to process 4,000 vehicles annually while Sigonella will handle 1,000, he said.

The new centers streamline the time and effort required for servicemembers to process vehicles.

The new centers were developed by Mary Jane Pasha Maxstadt, general manager for AP Logistics in Anchorage.

"This is one-stop shopping," Maxstadt said. "Rather than go back-and-forth for paperwork, all the necessary processing is done in one place."

The centers include a voluntary appointment system which provides "added value," Maxstadt said. Center staff review orders, registration and documentation before the arrival of servicemembers. This ensures all documentation is correct and necessary paperwork is preprinted.

"Basically, all you have to do is add the odometer reading," Maxstadt said. "It cuts the processing time from 15 minutes to five minutes."

"The first comment we hear customers make is it is more convenient, comfortable and personalized," said Katie Frey, general manager, of the Anchorage center.

"The quality of customer service is our focus," Frey said. "We provide a quality experience." (Courtesy of Military Traffic Management Command Public Affairs).



We want your feedback

We are looking for your feedback to ensure the "Vigileer" meets your needs. If you have any comments, e-mail us at vigileer@aviano.af.mil, send us a fax at Ext. 7083 or call us at Ext. 7344.

A 'special' day for Aviano



Staff Sgt. Mitch Fuqua



Staff Sgt. Mitch Fuqua



Staff Sgt. Mitch Fuqua

(Top) Senior Airman Roy Meffley, left, 31st Operations Support Squadron, looks on as Oriano Artizo tosses a ball toward the padded wall at the Aviano High School gym during the Special Olympics Sunday. (Bottom left) Paola Masut, left, dribbles the ball for the dribble competition as Senior Airman Kimberly Ness, 31st Comptroller Squadron, encourages her on. (Bottom right) Angela Boney, left, Aviano High School, awards Spartaco Zugno a medal after a competition.

USAFE command chiefs tackle airmen's issues

By Staff Sgt. Chuck Marsh

100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

RAF MILDENHALL, England (USAFENS)—Chiefs from across the U.S. Air Forces in Europe gathered here to discuss issues ranging from Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployments to pay and benefits to communicating with airmen.

"As command chief master sergeants, we meet seven times a year; six of those are in conjunction with noncommissioned officer academy graduations," said USAFE Command Chief Master Sgt. Vickie Mauldin. She led the group of 10 command chiefs who met Feb. 25 to March 1 at the 2001 Command Chief Master Sergeants' Conference.

"We take this time to really get in-depth with these issues and try to resolve them for the command. We then make recommendations to COMUSAFE (commander of USAFE) as to which direction USAFE and the Air Force need to go to resolve the issues that effect the command."

"This was the first time we've held the conference away from Ramstein," said Chief Master Sgt. Kathryn Miller, 100th Air Refueling Wing command chief master sergeant. "In making recommendations that effect the entire command, it's critical for all of us to understand the different challenges and complexities at different bases. It was definitely a pleasure and honor to host the command chiefs so they could see the Mildenhall, Lakenheath and United Kingdom environment, and what we deal with here."

The chiefs are constantly getting out and talking to their troops to find out what issues are important to today's airmen and noncommissioned officers.

"Our goals and responsibilities are to talk to the young airmen - the junior airmen - and senior NCOs to understand what the issues they're facing so we can better represent those views to our commanders," said Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms, command chief

master sergeant for 16th Air Force, Aviano Air Base, Italy.

The four-day long conference gave Mauldin a chance to discuss what she feels are the main issues, based on what she has compiled from her talks with troops -- to include retention, pay and education concerns. "We're still very concerned about retention; too many people are still getting out and maybe for the wrong reasons. There are also a lot of pay and compensation issues that we're dealing with -- these are probably the main things -- then include educational benefits. No matter what group I'm with, where I am or who I talk to, I always hear about those things, so they are at the top of my list," said Mauldin.

Those weren't the only concerns at the top of Mauldin's list; all the chiefs brought roughly the same issues to the conference, differing only slightly from base to base.

"Communication, if anyone has heard me talk before, is a big concern of mine. Even my boss, Gen. (Gregory) Martin (USAFE commander), takes the time to sit down with every member of his staff every time he returns from a conference. He tells us what they talked about, the decisions that were made, the 'whys' behind the decisions, where they came from and why it's important for our Air Force. If he can take time to do that, each one of us can as well. He's leading by showing us the way we should be communicating," she said.

"We're working on issues that are facing and will face our people," said Mimms. "For example, the (issue of) bonuses new people in the military are receiving today is having a negative effect on those already in the military. People feel they are not appreciated because of the money issue. Some new airmen I've talked to say they would have joined without the money, but the perception -- and that's more important -- is they're joining because of the money."

Mauldin said she is optimistic about the future and about resolving the top issues discussed at the conference.

Chief Master Sgt. David Mimms,
Command chief master
sergeant, 16th Air Force

"We're working on
issues that are facing
and will face our
people."

Deployment tracking system well underway

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The Air Force's Tempo Management and Tracking System is well under way in helping the service track its people's deployments.

The Air Force began tracking individual servicemembers' deployed days Oct. 1, to fall in line with new legislation aimed at reducing the stress of frequent and prolonged family separations or adverse impacts of extensive temporary duty assignments.

The information is expected to be displayed monthly on future leave and earnings statements.

"This was not a totally new concept for the Air Force, since we've been monitoring deployments of all members for several years," said Wayne Nelson, from the Air Force's operational readiness division.

Under the new policy, servicemembers are eligible to receive high-deployment pay of \$100 a day for each day they have been

deployed in excess of 400 days within the previous 730 days. Payment for high-deployment days will occur once the deployment is completed. Once the deployment days are verified, commanders will issue a military pay order to the eligible person to submit through his or her base finance office.

"The high-deployment pay is an attempt to ensure the services make every effort to reduce the number of people who are subject to burdensome tempo," Nelson said. "However, this is not a pay raise. High-deployment pay must come from within existing budgets."

The management system requires personal involvement by general officers in the decision to deploy servicemembers for more than 181 days within a 365-day period. In most cases, the major command commander must approve a servicemember's deployment for more than 220 days within a 365-day

period, Nelson said. The 365-day period is a rolling calendar, independent of fiscal or calendar year considerations.

"What's changed is that we now are required to gain general officer approval for folks to exceed 181 or 220 days deployed out of the preceding 365 days," Nelson said.

Another change is that all temporary duty travel will not count toward the 181-220- and 400-day thresholds.

"It remains the Air Force's desire for individuals to not exceed 120 days TDY per year," he said.

"However, for those members who will exceed 120 days, commanders will strive to manage the tempo of their people below the established thresholds.

"The Tempo Management and Tracking System is a tool to help distribute, over a larger number of Air Force members, the burden of meeting our commitments," Nelson said.

Community notes

Spouses Direct communication network -- is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays at Bldg. 118 in Area One. For more information, call Ext. 7768 or e-mail spouse.direct@aviano.af.mil.

Alcoholics Anonymous -- meets 5:30-6:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Bldg. 108.

For more information, call Ext. 5321.

Al-Anon -- meets 7-8 p.m. Fridays in Bldg. 108. It offers help for families and friends of problem drinkers.

For more information, call Ext. 5321.

Reserve briefings -- for Palace Front are 2 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. Palace Chase briefings are 10 a.m. the third Wednesday of each month. Both briefings are in the 31st Support Group conference room. For more information, call Master Sgt. Alex Vazquez, at Ext. 4919.

Thrift shop -- is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Proceeds are contributed back into the community. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer, stop by in Bldg. 220 through the rear entrance during open hours. For more information, call Ext. 5428 during hours of operation.

Nicotine anonymous meetings -- are held at the health and wellness center weekly. For more information, dates and times, call Ext. 4573.

Veterans affairs representative -- will be at Aviano periodically through April.

For more information or for an appointment, call Ext. 5407.

Consumer affairs representative -- can attend meetings to discuss reading and understanding Italian utility bills. People can also go by the family support center for individual help.

Tax assistance program -- offers basic tax assistance, free of charge to all service members, dependents and civilian employees. Contact a unit tax advisor for more information.

Greek restaurant -- is open for business in the Flightline Area, across from Hangar Two. For more information, call Ext. 5493.

Education

Embry-Riddle University -- Logistics Management is 5-10 p.m. Fridays beginning today. College Math for Aviation II is 6:30-9 p.m. Fridays and 9:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays beginning April 11. Regular registration ends today in Bldg. 144 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays - Fridays.

Get up to 36 hours of college credit for military experience toward a bachelor of science degree.

Master's of science degree term four and bachelor's of science degree term four regular classes runs from Monday through May 18. For more information, call Ext. 5140.

University of Oklahoma -- offers the following spring and summer courses: Financial Management in Higher Education, May 1-6. The enrollment deadline is April 2. Critical Literature in Adult and Higher Education, June 5-10. Enroll by May 7. Introduction to Training and Development, July 10-15. The enrollment deadline is June 11. For more information, call Ext. 5139.

City Colleges of Chicago -- offers associate's degrees in various concentrations. For more information, call Ext. 5143.

Cameron University -- offers the following spring and summer term courses: Applied Business Strategy, April 17-22. The enrollment deadline is Monday. Accounting for Management, May 19-24. The enroll-

ment deadline is April 20. Current Issues in Human Resource Management, July 17-22. The enrollment deadline is June 18. Registration is taking place for the upcoming term that begins Monday. Don't delay, come in and sign up for classes in Bldg. 144.

For more information, call Ext. 5365 or 5351.

Chapel notes

Concert -- There will be a free Lenten concert at the base chapel at 7:30 p.m., Saturday.

The concert master, Michele Huber, will compare and contrast the Catholic (using Vivaldi) and Protestant (using Bach) understanding of suffering as we journey through Lent to the joy of Easter.

Catholic -- noon weekdays, 5:30 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. Sundays.

- Confession is 4:30-5:15 p.m. Saturdays.

- Religious education for preschool children through adult is 10-11:15 a.m. Sundays. A confirmation class for ninth through 12th grade students is 9:30-11:15 a.m. Sundays.

Protestant -- Sundays, general service at 10 a.m.

Gospel -- service is at 1 p.m.

- Religious education for preschool children through adult is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sundays.

Seventh Day Adventist -- 11 a.m. Saturdays.

Lutheran -- 6 p.m. the first Thursday of the month.

Church of Christ -- 3:15 p.m. Sundays.

Church of God -- 6 p.m. Sundays.

Jewish -- 7 p.m. every third Friday of the month.

Islamic -- Juma'ah prayer 12:45 p.m. Fridays.

Exploring Europe

Upcoming tours -- information, tickets and tours offers a Slovenia spa tour, crystal shopping March 31, and Verona Parco Zoo and Safari, April 9. The Verona Parco Zoo opened March 17. For a price list and hours of operation, call 045-7170113 or 045-7170052.

For more information on upcoming tours, call Ext. 5072 or 5026.

Volksmarching events -- The fifth Marcia della Val Meduna in Meduno (PN) is Sunday. The departure is at 8 a.m. from Roveredo Square. The run is 8:30-9:30 and the distance is 6-12-24 kilometers. T

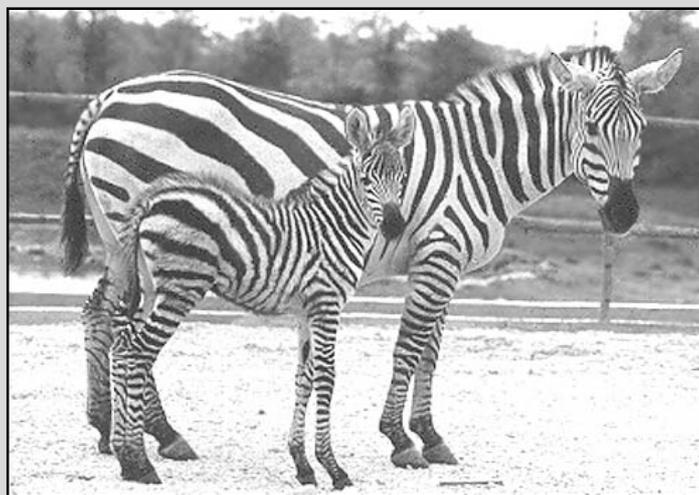
he entry fee with T-shirt is approximately \$4, without T-shirt is approximately \$1.50.

Ice skating at Piancavallo -- at Il "Pattinaggio su Ghiaccio" an indoor ice rink. It's open daily through March 30. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to noon, 3-4:30 p.m., 5-6:30 p.m. and 9-11 p.m.

The cost for children ages 12 and older is Lire 10,000 to skate and Lire 15,000 including skates.

The cost for children ages 3-11 is Lire 8,000 to skate and Lire 12,000 including skates. Special rates are available for groups.

For more information, call (0434) 521218.



courtesy photo

These Grant zebras are from the Verona Parco Zoo. For many years the park has been devoted to the conservation of endangered species.

the Pordenone tourism office at (0434) 521218 or check out www.spacepickle.com.

A clean sweep for 31st MSS



Staff Sgt. Mitch Fuqua

Mckinley Taylor, left, 31st Supply Squadron attempts a layup while Doug Goudy, 31st Mission Support Squadron awaits the rebound during the intramural basketball tournament's double-elimination championship game March 23. The 31st MSS took the game from the suppliers for the base title. The 31st MSS 30 and over team was also crowned base champions on the same day, taking the championship game of their double-elimination tournament.



Staff Sgt. Mitch Fuqua

Reginald Stucky, 31st MSS, tries to out reach and keep the ball out of the hands of Deron Ray, 31st SUPS.

SPORTS SHORTS

The Aviano Sports Officials Association -- needs referees, umpires and scorekeepers for all sports.

No experience is necessary; special training is provided.

For more information, call Greg Peterson at 0348-592-1139 or 0434-94-9560.

Aviano bowling center -- Also offering daily lunch specials throughout the week for \$4.25. Mondays: Cordon Bleu, starch and a veggie, Tuesdays: Pasta Al Forno, Wednesdays: Tacosalad with medium drink, Thursdays: Cornish hen, mashed potatoes with peas and carrots and Fridays: Catfish with rice and hush puppies. Also offered is a soup of the day.

For more information, call Ext. 7487.

Alpine golf course --has a swing and etiquette class 10 a.m. to noon April 7. The

class is free. Spaces are limited so sign up now. Alpine needs help improving the course, volunteer clean-up day is 1-4 p.m. April 25. Dress in comfortable clothes and be willing to get dirty.

Refreshments and snacks will be available for volunteers. Eat at Mulligan's Grill through the month of March and possibly win an iron, golf bag or a putter.

Use the food receipt as an entry form and deposit in the specially marked box. Monday through April 7 the pro shop is having an Easter sale.

For more information, call Ext. 7386.

Outdoor recreation -- offers paragliding every weekend and horseback riding daily. Call the office to make an appointment.

Ski and ice-skating passes for Piancavallo are available for purchase at outdoor recre-

ation and ask about the customized ski/snowboard trips. There is a ski trip to Karnische Saturday.

For more information, call Ext. 8623.

Marathon -- online registration is now available for runners interested in participating in the fifth annual U.S. Air Force Marathon at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Sept. 22.

For more information, call the U.S. Air Force Marathon Office at (937) 257-4350 or log onto www.afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil.

Sports and fitness center -- combat circuit training is 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and is open to military members only. Aerobic instructors are needed immediately. Apply at the main sports and fitness gym.

For more information, call Ext. 7574.

Editor's note: The following information is provided by the 31st Services Squadron. For more information, call Ext. 5080.

Teen Programs -- writing letters 4-5 p.m. today, tie dye T-shirts 4-6 p.m. Monday, trivia contest 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, create collages 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesday, personality quizzes 4-5 p.m. Thursday. Making baked goods is 3:30-5:30 p.m. March 30. For a more complete listing, call Ext. 5994.

Community center programs -- has a flea market from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. The theme is spring cleaning. A new cooking class is available in Pordenone 6-9 p.m. through March 30. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Dating Game interviews -- are 5-9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. For single active duty military members. The game is 7 p.m. April 21. The couple may win a trip to Verona's Medieval Tour. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Aviano youth programs -- new dance classes are offered for children ages 3-18 years. Learn tap, jazz, modern dance and creative movement.

A gymnastics instructor is wanted for the Aviano youth program.

Spring Fest is at the flightline fitness complex April 7. A 5K run/walk will begin at 8 a.m. by the shoppette. Participants must sign in by 7:30 a.m. A family fun run is 9 a.m. at the flightline track. The Easter egg hunt is 10 a.m. for 2-4-year-olds, 10:15 a.m. for 5-8-year-olds and 10:30 a.m. for 9-11-year-olds. In case of rain the hunt will be held April 14. Various food booths will be available. For more information, call Ext. 7575.

Sabre Hall -- offers Mongolian barbecue Wednesday. Seating times vary and reservations are required. Tuesdays are two-for-one steak nights for \$12.95 in Alexander's Restaurant. Free facos are 5-6 p.m. Wednesdays in both lounges and Fighter Base Fri-

Spring Pictures

A professional photographer will be at the community activity center 1-5 p.m. March 31st to take photos of all age groups. Appointments are recommended but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

days are 5-8 p.m. These events are open to club members and eligible guests only. For more information, call Ext. 5493.

Victor Dining Facility -- will close March 30 and reopen April 9 at the contingency dorms located in Bldg. 1467. For more information, please call Ext. 5544.

Arts and crafts -- offers after school art 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesdays for children 8-13 years of age. For more information, call Ext. 5032.

Information, tickets and tours -- has several upcoming trips, including Lake Garda March 31, Slovenia Spa and crystal shopping March 31 through April 1, Mirabilandia April 6, French Rivera April 7-8, San Marino and Ravenna April 7, Slovenia Rhapsody April 7 and Verona Parco Zoo and Safari April 9. ITT also offers Easter in Rome and individual Rimini packages.

ITT also has a satellite location at outdoor recreation open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday through Fridays.

ITT can now be reached by e-mail, at 31SVS.SVRR@aviano.af.mil or call at Ext. 5072 or 5026.

Group study classes -- is hosting a martial arts demonstration 3-5 p.m. March 31 in the high school gym. Spectators will have a chance to speak to the instructors and sign up for classes.

Kuk Sool Won martial art is offered throughout the month. Cost is \$25 per month for adults and youth.

American and English horseback riding classes are offered to all levels of riders. Cost is \$100 for eight rides plus an annual membership fee at the ranch. For more information, call Ext. 5479.

Home fuels -- all new customers must have a valid housing contract, stamped and signed by a housing office official. Gasolio takes seven to 10 days to deliver and there are no emergency refills. For more information, call Ext. 5083.

Lunch menu at Victor Dining Facility for next week is:

Today: Spaghetti with meatballs, barbecued chicken, home-fried potatoes, rice pilaf, asparagus and carrots.

Monday: Beef pot pie, spicy baked fish, rice pilaf, parsley potatoes, tempura vegetables and peas with celery.

Tuesday: Beef porcupine, pancit chicken, O'Brien potatoes, egg noodles, mixed vegetables and carrots.

Wednesday: Chicken adobo, Szechwan beef, mashed potatoes, pea and pepper rice, broccoli polonaise and vegetable stir fry.

Thursday: Fried chicken, fried catfish, macaroni and cheese, steamed rice, collard greens and green beans.

March 30: Creole spaghetti, chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, oven-browned potatoes, Mexican corn and French-fried okra.

Now Playing...

Today

7 p.m. "What Women Want" -- Nick Marshall, a high-flying, chauvinistic Chicago advertising executive, experiences a rude awakening when the creative director position he coveted goes to Darcy Maguire, — a woman — who intends to aggressively pursue the lucrative woman's market. While trying to brainstorm ideas for "feminine" products, Nick experiences an accident that gives him the ability to hear women's thoughts. Determined to win back his stolen job, Nick uses his useful new talent to scrutinize Darcy. Starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. Rated PG-13.

9:30 p.m. "Valentine" -- A group of four college girls make fun of one of their nerdy classmates — a young man who harbors a serious grudge about it for years afterwards. Finally, having grown into a handsome, self-assured man, he goes back to get his revenge: each year on Valentine's Day he takes one of them on a murderous date. Starring Daniel Cosgrove and Denise Richards. Rated R.

Saturday

2 p.m. "102 Dalmations" -- Cruella De Vil is released from prison, seemingly transformed into a law-abiding animal lover. Under the watchful eye of her skeptical probation officer, Chloe Simon, De Vil comes to the aid of a failing dog shelter run by Kevin Shepherd. But when Shepherd is promptly arrested for the theft of the Dalmatians, and Chloe loses her own Dalmatian pups, De Vil comes under suspicion once again. Starring Glenn Close and Gerard Depardieu. Rated G.

4:30 p.m. "All the Pretty Horses" -- Two young men celebrate the recent ending of World War II by riding out of their native Texas into the wild west, meeting friends and fellow adventurers along the way. Once they reach Mexico, they become smitten with a young woman, who is the daughter of a ranch owner. The men throw themselves headlong into danger. Starring Matt Damon and Penelope Cruz. Rated PG-13.

7 p.m. "Dracula 2000" -- In this modern-day adaptation of the age-old Dracula story,

a young vampire hunter, leaves his perch in London and travels to New Orleans. There, he hopes to save a young woman from the clutches of Dracula. There are special effects and Dracula has a new make over. Starring Johnny Miller and Justine Waddell.

9:30 p.m. "Valentine"

Sunday

2 p.m. "102 Dalmations"

4:30 p.m. "All the Pretty Horses"

7 p.m. "What Women Want"

Monday

7 p.m. "Valentine"

Tuesday

7 p.m. "What Women Want"

Wednesday

7 p.m. "All the Pretty Horses"

Thursday

7 p.m. "Dracula 2000"

March 30

7 p.m. "Thirteen Days" -- For 13 days in October 1962, the world stood on the brink of an unthinkable catastrophe. Across the globe, people awaited the outcome of a political, diplomatic and military confrontation that threatened to end in a nuclear exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union. Starring Kevin Costner and Bruce Greenwood. Rated PG-13.

9:30 p.m. "Hannibal" -- is set in Florence, Italy, a decade after the events of "Silence of the Lambs," in which Hannibal Lecter was interviewed by FBI agent Clarice Starling. Then he escaped. Hannibal picks up where that film left off — with the deranged Lecter now free in Italy, and Starling still on his trail. The film takes viewers on a journey through Lecter's violent, cannibalistic mind. Starring Anthony Hopkins. Rated R.

For more information on the movie schedule, call Ext. 7252.